

# Editorial

Many people living in affluence and prosperity have a difficult time making prayer a high priority. After all, when things go well and when money is available to provide for most needs, many find it difficult to spend quality time in prayer and other spiritual pursuits. However, things do go better with prayer! This is especially true of mission and ministry, since both are so closely tied to spiritual activities.

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* has several articles dealing with prayer and mission. Conrad Vine, the president of Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM), writes on prayer and fasting when dealing with crises in mission, and the front-line workers for AFM are often faced with daunting challenges. Another AFM workers, John Holbrook, shares how prayer breaks down barriers of hostility, and Susan Payne, the Development Director at AFM, writes on the impact and importance of prayer when working with donors.

Ann Hamel's article on "The Psychology of Prayer: A Theosomatic (Psycho-Spiritual) Approach to Missionary Care" has excellent material documenting the healing effects of prayer for those who have experienced trauma and the article also offers a brief historical sketch of missionary care.

Jacques Yves Mbende presents a challenging article and suggests how a healing ministry can be an important step leading to discipleship. It has also been my experience that when working among those in the world religions or among secular or postmodern people, many need a faith-building experience like healing or deliverance in order to be willing to listen to a presentation about the Good News.

Most Christians would agree that prayer makes a difference and that prayer allows God to engage in situations and impact individuals in ways that he does not do in the absence of prayer. Knowing this, it is strange that missionaries and Christian workers do not make prayer a higher priority. It is also troubling that many ministerial training programs and seminaries do not offer even one course dealing with the various aspects of prayer. Perhaps this also reflects Western cultural traits of self-sufficiency and independence.

Be challenged by this issue on prayer.

Bruce Bauer, editor